

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for characterizing spheroids comprising

- a tube ~~(1, 2)~~ with a longitudinal axis, said tube containing spheroids and having ~~which has~~ an inner diameter in a constricted region ~~(1)~~ of ~~its~~ said longitudinal axis which is smaller than the diameter of said ~~the~~ ~~to-be-characterized spheroid (6)~~ spheroids, with said tube being composed of an electrically insulating material at least at ~~its~~ an inner circumference thereof;

- a first pair of electrodes ~~(3, 4)~~ in said tube ~~(2)~~ on ~~a~~ one first side of said constricted region ~~(1)~~ and a second pair of electrodes ~~(3, 4)~~ in said tube ~~(2)~~ on a second side of said constricted region ~~(1)~~, which lies opposite said first side, with each pair of electrodes ~~(3, 4)~~ having an inner electrode ~~(3)~~ and an outer electrode ~~(4)~~ of which said inner electrode ~~(3)~~ lies closer to said constricted region ~~(1)~~ than said outer electrode ~~(4)~~; and

- a measurement arrangement ~~(11, 12)~~ having ~~a~~ an alternating current source ~~(11)~~ which is connected to the outer electrodes ~~(4)~~ and a voltage meter ~~(12)~~ which is connected to the inner electrodes ~~(3)~~, ~~wherein, said tube (1, 2) is disposed vertically, said measuring arrangement producing an impedance spectrogram.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said tube ~~(1,2)~~ has a conical-shaped enlargement on one side or on both sides of said constricted region ~~(1)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said each pair of electrodes ~~(3,4)~~ extend radially into said tube ~~(2)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein ~~in said region (1), said tube (1,2) has an~~ said inner diameter in said constricted region of said tube is ~~of~~ between 0.1 and 0.5mm.

5. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said tube ~~(1,2)~~ is composed of glass.

6. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 or 4, wherein said inner diameter of said tube ~~(1,2)~~ changes step-like in steps along said longitudinal axis in said constricted region ~~(1)~~.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).